



NEWS

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*A Note on our Format: Since we are temporarily between newsletter editors, the format is back to basics ☺ We hope to be back to the newsletter you recognize by the next issue!

FROM THE PRESIDENT

This past March, on behalf of our more than 500 members, I testified before the Child and Family Law Committee against House Bill 710. I told the bill's sponsor, Rep. Rip Holden of Goffstown, and the committee that NHLA recognized and shared the concerns of the public regarding the confidentiality statute and how it relates to library use by minors, but that we remained opposed to the bill's passage. Rep. Holden and the committee agreed not to pursue the proposed legislation if NHLA would voluntarily address the issues.

Immediately following our successful negotiation, NHLA's Legislative Chair, Randy Brough, posted a message on our e-mail discussion list informing the membership of our agreement. He reminded members of the importance of educating parents and guardians as to the rights and responsibilities conferred with a library card, in accordance with the state statute and the local library's policies, when registering their minor children as customers. He noted how imperative it is for parents to understand how the library's policies and the state statute will affect the records created by the use of the card so that parents can make informed choices about their family's use of the card.

On April 15, the Executive Board of NHLA voted unanimously to permanently post on our website a statement recommending that libraries make hard copies of their registration policies and the text of RSA Chapter 201-D:11 available for parents to read and keep. Jennifer Bone, NHLA's webmaster, made the statement as well as sample policies from the Gilman Library in Alton, the Goffstown Public Library, the Keene Public Library, and the Wiggin Memorial Library in Stratham available immediately. If

your library has a policy or procedure that could be applied at other libraries, please send a copy to Jennifer at jbone@ci.keene.nh.us.

It is important for NHLA members to participate in a concerted effort to preserve the privacy of our customers, including minors. All we have to do is be certain that parents have a clear understanding of the local library's policy and the statute when registering their children for cards. House Bill 710 was the second bill in two years that sought to provide parental access to children's records. If NHLA members continue to voluntarily address the issue, then we may not have to testify a third time.

Robert Sargent

FROM THE PAST PRESIDENT

When we moved the annual members' meeting to the NHLA fall conference, the elections for officers moved along with it. You will receive an official ballot with your registration materials for the fall conference. This fall the open positions are: Vice-President/President-Elect, Secretary, ALA Councilor and NELA Representative. Running for VP/President-Elect is Susanne Collins, director of the Lebanon Public Library. She writes: "For more than 10 years I have served as a public library director in Indiana, Maine and New Hampshire. I feel this is the right time for me to broaden my professional experience by participating in the development of the NHLA's mission. My specific area of interest is the direct relationship between professional (and personal) development and the goal of increasing public awareness of library service and the "library experience". Through the combined effort of staff development and public awareness, we can make headway in the effort to help our patrons use library services to the fullest, while enjoying our own working environment more at the same time. I would very much like the opportunity to be a part of this venture." Jennifer Bone, Assistant Librarian at Keene Public Library and Diane Tebbetts, Assistant University Librarian at Dimond Library, UNH have agreed to run for an additional term as Secretary and ALA Councilor respectively. Two candidates are running for a 3-year term as NELA Representative. Catherine Redden, library director at Lane Memorial Library in Hampton, writes: "A new resident of Exeter, I've been active in New Hampshire libraries since 1986, teaching library courses for both the College for Lifelong Learning and the State Library, serving as Scholarship Chair and later as President for NHLA, and recently serving a two year term as Director on the NELA Board. I would be honored to be the NHLA representative to NELA, involving me again with all the wonderful librarians around this state." The other candidate, Lesley Gaudreau, library director at Wiggin Memorial Library in Stratham, writes: "I have have had so much fun with NHLA over the past years as a member of the Intellectual Freedom Committee, CHILIS president and NHLA president and I would like to take that experience to our regional association. After participating in NELA's Counterparts and Leadership conferences for 2 years, I am really excited about the steps NELA is taking to become more responsive to members and to bring both the diverse states and the diversity of librarians together to share

resources, experiences and successes. I would like to be a part of those changes and help NHLA play an active role in NELA as well as bringing information about what NELA has to offer to NH librarians back to you.”

When you receive your ballot, please vote for one candidate for each open position, or write in a candidate for any or all of the positions, and return your ballot to Andrea Thorpe at the Newport Free Library by mail or by van before October 31, 2003. Your vote helps to determine the direction of your association and we appreciate your participation!

Lesley Gaudreau

FROM THE INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM COMMITTEE

DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM HANDBOOK, developed by the Intellectual Freedom Committee for New Hampshire libraries in 1998, IS? Despite the fact that it is more than 5 years old, it is full of useful information for anyone working in a library, particularly at the Circ desk. If you cannot find one in your library, I will send you a replacement copy as long as supplies last. Be sure to give me a van stop.

The newly reformed NHLA Intellectual Freedom Committee is aware that there are changes in the law, especially revolving around CIPA and the Patriot’s Act, which are new to the library world, and I am keeping track of things I read about those changes in the back of our library’s manual. It behooves all of us to try to do something like that in our libraries. Challenges can come from many places, and the more we know the better off we are.

The brief and interesting meeting that the IFC had at Hall Memorial Library in September focused on discussion of issues currently facing those of us attending, especially in our daily work. We came away with a commitment to provide continuing education regarding censorship issues, an awareness of the difficulties some of us face connecting theory (and law!) to practice, and a respect for each others’ points of view. A call or email to any of the “members” will begin the steps needed for support should you find you need some in your library. A list of those attending and the libraries they came from follows: Mary Ahlgren, Hall Memorial Library, Chair; Debby Gilbert, Minot Sleeper Library, Bristol; Beth Strauss, Wilson School Library, CHILIS IFC Rep. Selena Cate, Thornton Library; CHILIS IFC Rep. Katie McDonough, Kimball Library, Atkinson; and Lesley Gaudreau, Wiggin Memorial Library, Stratham

Mary Ahlgren, Chair

FROM THE CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE

MINI-MONEY GRANT INCREASE

Remember, it's always a good time to refresh your professional skills or learn new ones!

In a time of rising educational costs and tight library budgets, the Continuing Education Committee is pleased to announce that the maximum amount of the MacDonald Mini-Money Grant will increase from \$100 to \$200. Support is offered to NHLA members for a broad range of Continuing Education, including credit and non-credit courses, workshops and seminars, State Library Education Modules, NELINET classes, online education, and programs in related fields such as management and computer technology.

Mini-Money Grants are provided by the Adam and Jane MacDonald Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation. Applications are available on the NHLA website (<http://www.state.nh.us/nhla/minigrant.htm>) or by calling Stan Olson at (603) 926-3368. Other members of the committee are Mary Ahlgren, John Barrett, Tom Ladd, and Mary Ann List.

Stan Olson, Chair